

As a Professional Flight Attendant with American Airlines, I abhor the fact the US Government is considering allowing cell phone usage aboard commercial aircraft. Passengers rarely listen to crew member safety announcements as it is. Cell phone usage would only increase the disregard many of the traveling public have for crew member duties. They will be too busy talking on their phones to listen and comply with crew instructions. Allowing people to talk on cell phones inflight would also increase the noise level on already crowded planes. Crew members and passengers would be forced to listen to other's conversations while they are on the phone, sitting, literally inches from one another. Many people are stressed and have little patience when on crowded planes. Crew members would be called upon on a regular basis to mediate and regulate the volume of people speaking on their phones. I cannot begin to imagine what a nightmare it will be for crew members in having to deal with this onboard aircraft. I encourage those that are contemplating passing this ruling to come aboard our aircraft and envision the negative impact this will have on passenger comfort and the ability of crew members to effectively complete their job duties while dealing with insubordinate, stubborn passengers that just cannot get off their cell phones when required. This ruling should NOT be passed. We, as a society do not need to be subjecting strangers to our private conversations while locked up in a metal tube for hours at a time. Safety comes before passenger convenience. Always has, and always should.

Regards, Paula Pluth